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Contents Issue 15 July 1999

"Lost at Sea" or How to Find a Post-1906 Immigrant Ancestor Who Does Not Appear in the New York City Soundex List of Ship Passengers
By Edward David Luft 1

Hauser Family, second volume
By Micheline Gutmann
Translated by Renate Herzog 4

Westphalian Jews in the Holocaust
By Peter Landé 6

Research of Jewish Communities in the Historical County of Oettingen
By Karen S. Franklin 6

Remarks on Peter Landé's Article in Stammbaum 14: Additional Sources of Information on Jewish Records in Southern Germany
By Rolf Hofmann 6

The John H. Bergmann Collection
By Karen S. Franklin 7

Laupheim Cemetery Book Review
Reviewed by Hans George Hirsch 8

New Unified Catalogue at the Leo Baeck Institute
By Leigh Gold 10

Juedisches Leben in Ludwigsburg Geschichte, Quellen und Dokumentation.
By Joachim Hahn.
Reviewed by George Arnstein 10

New Sources of Information on German and Austrian Jews in the Holocaust
By Peter Landé 11

BOOK REVIEWS
Solomon Family History ***A History of My Family***
by David H. Solomon.
Reviewed by Claus W. Hirsch 12

Die ehemalige Jüdische Gemeinde Sien—Spuren und Erinnerungen
by Ruth and Ulrich Eckhoff, 1998, 159pp.
Reviewed by Peter Landé 13

The Cologne Memorial Book and a New Development
By Peter Landé 14

Family Research Application Form 15

"Lost at Sea"

or How to Find a Post-1906 Immigrant Ancestor Who Does Not Appear in the New York City Soundex List of Ship Passengers

by Edward David Luft

You have a problem: you need to know your ancestor's place of residence prior to emigration. One solution is to use three sources that, when used in combination, will yield the required information. These sources are (1) the series *Germans to America*[1]; (2) ship passenger lists on file at the U.S. National Archives and (3) Hamburg Passenger Lists.[2]

Data in *Germans to America* comes from the National Archives passenger arrival lists which contain the date, ship, and ports of arrival and departure. They do not normally provide the town of residence abroad, as the manifest did not include this information. The German series records arrivals for the years January1850-May 1891, so far in 60 volumes and the series continues. If an ancestor is found in these books, a researcher can learn his or her arrival information. That information will permit the researcher to access the Hamburg Emigration Lists more easily and effectively.

Although the Hamburg Emigrant Lists note the last residence abroad, use of them can be difficult because there is no single index to them, but rather each year is indexed alphabetically by the first letter of the last name. Searches using this method are tedious and time-consuming. If, however, the researcher knows the U. S. arrival date, easy estimation of the Hamburg departure date and quick location of the relative in the latter records is easy. The Genealogical Society of Utah, operated by the Church of Latter-Day Saints, has

microfilmed all of the Hamburg Emigrant Lists; for the final decade of the series, the lists are indexed.

If you know the ship's name and your ancestor's arrival date, proceed to the ship passenger manifests[3] to locate your ancestor. Prior to September 26, 1906, most ship manifests did not register previous place of residence. But what if your ancestor came to the United States in or after 1906 as shown in the census or the naturalization record, but you cannot find him or her in the Soundex index,[4] or cannot read those little cards that are often too faint to decipher? Not all is lost! Microfilm rolls are available in Room 400 of the National Archives and Records Administration Main Building in downtown Washington, DC (Archives I). There, almost hidden in the rear microfilm room, is a collection that is little used but very useful, located in cabinet 119, drawer 9, and cabinet 120, drawers 1-8. { I recommend asking at the front desk, as locations change periodically.}

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Advisory Committee:
William Firestone, <70401.1663@compuserve.com>
Karen Franklin, <khsmus@aol.com>
Claus. W. Hirsch, <103522.3316@compuserve.com>
Hans George Hirsch, <hghirsch@aol.com>
Peter W. Lande, <pdlande@compuserve.come>
Frank Mecklenburg, <frank@lgi.com>
George Arnstein, <arnstein@erols.com

Opinions expressed by contributors are their own, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Institute or the Advisory Committee.

Guest Editor: Matt Singer 301 Race St. #516 Philadelphia, PA 19106. (215) 592-9025. <msinger@philamuseum.org >

You will find a loose-leaf list of the files included on the microfilms on top of the cabinets on the left side of the rear microfilm room, and this list is a convenient resource for those visiting Archives I. However, it contains *only* the list of the microfilms, without explanation of their use or contents. This same list is reproduced in full in a finding aid.[5] The National Archives describes these microfilms in various of its publications[6]:

> Book Indexes, New York Passenger Lists, 1906-42, T612, 307 rolls, arranged chronologically by year, thereunder by vessel line or group of vessel lines, thereunder chronologically by date of vessel arrival, and thereunder by passenger surname. An alphabetical index of immigrant passenger lists for 1902-1943 has been microfilmed on T621.

Unfortunately, that alphabetical index is the very same Soundex index rendered illegible by poor quality! The T621 list is mentioned in the reference listed in endnote 1 and covers pp. 40-46 of that book.

The microfilms referred to here begin with January 1906 and include even passenger vessels arriving during World Wars I and II, up to 1942. The indexes were created in response to the requirements of the Naturalization, rather than the Immigration Law, a fact that explains their appearance in 1906, rather than 1907, {when the new Immigration Law came into effect}. The Naturalization Act was enacted June 29, 1906 and became effective on September 27, 1906. I am, however, unable to explain why the index books begin in January 1906. Initially, each passenger shipping line had its own variations and, frequently, its own version of the printed forms required by law by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS); this was so until the INS finally supplied standardized blank books as provided in the Immigration regulations. Generally, the ship book indexes list the name of the vessel, the arrival date, and the landing date, which was usually

the next day. Sometimes, the manifest lists each port of embarkation during multiple stops in Europe. The destination is also frequently provided.

Most of the early ship passenger book indexes include first and second class passengers; the Immigration Act of 1907 applied to all aliens arriving by water in a U. S. port. However, when the INS started to supply the books, only steerage passengers were supposed to be included. Even so, some books list crew members and first and second class passengers. However, the listings are not consistent on this point, even within the record of a given steamship line. Apparently, much depended upon the habits or whims of the person doing the listing, usually the ship's purser, or, someone reporting to him. Prior to 1893, the INS inspected only steerage passengers so that wealthier immigrants traveling first or second class entered the United States with no INS record. After 1893, the INS gradually introduced inspection of all classes of arrivals. By 1906, the INS had largely reached that goal.

A few book indexes include the passenger's age. All passengers, including stowaways, if they were discovered and added to the manifest, are listed, not just the head of the family. Unlike the Soundex index, the lists in this series are generally easy to read and recorded in clear, dark handwriting. Although some typed lists created in the 1920s and after are fainter, they are still legible. The book index list number of the ship may correspond to its number in the original passenger manifests. Noting these numbers will facilitate the location of your ancestor in the ship passenger lists through the use of both the group and line numbers. First find the ancestor, then, note the ship manifest number, the group number of the sheets in which your ancestor is located, and the line number on that sheet. Then, go to the original ship immigration manifest for that number, which should correspond to the same ship for the same crossing, then to the group number for the sheets, and finally to the line number on that sheet. Unfortunately, each passenger manifest may have as many as four different stamped numbers, one in each corner, so, be sure to take the name of the ship, its arrival date, and the numbers. If, while checking the microfilms in series T612, you discover that the last page for a given letter of the alphabet is full, check under a rarely used letter, such as "X," for the continuation of that letter for names. In the 1920s, lists were frequently typed and in the 1930s some were printed. With the exception of these printed lists, only non-citizens are shown (other than crewmembers working their way across for passage). By contrast, the printed lists included all passengers, not just those in steerage class. Shortly after printing of the lists began, third class was abolished, and all passengers traveled either first or second class. Unfortunately, the printed lists do not indicate the section and line number on the immigration manifest given to the INS. However, you can review that one ship to find your ancestor(s), who will be listed under the class of passage as shown in the printed list.

What do you do if you have some idea of the time period but no knowledge of the specific date or ship which on your ancestor travelled? In addition to the naturalization document, one other possibility remains. Not all naturalizations after 1906 were performed in federal courts, nor are they today. See Luft, Edward David, "Researching Post-1906 Naturalizations in Washington, DC," *Avotaynu*, Volume X, Number 3, Fall1994, pp. 30-32. If you do not have a year from the census record and have no naturalization certificate, probably the next choice is to check:

> *Morton Allan Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals for the Years 1890 to 1930 at the Port of New York and for the Years 1904 to 1926 at the Ports of New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1979, 268 pp. Library of Congress call number HE945.A2D5 1979; Dewey Decimal number: 387.5/42; ISBN: 0806380303. Reprint of the 1931 edition published by Immigration Information Bu-

reau, Inc., New York. Originally published in 1928 under the title: *Directory Relating to Record of Arrival of Passenger Steamships at the Ports of New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore, 1904 to 1926.*

Frequently, you can narrow down the line and ship used by an ancestor, thus developing a useful hypothesis regarding the port from which the ancestor left Europe to come to New York City. The *Morton Allan Directory* will enable you to determine the dates on which ships landed in New York City. Remember to adjust for arrival versus landing, which was normally the next day. Check for the date listed in *Morton Allan*, as well as the next day, when consulting the microfilms. There are some mistakes in *Morton Allan* so it is best to check several days in each direction. Unfortunately, *Morton Allan* does not include all ship arrivals. Once you have some idea of the ship or ships arrival dates, you can begin to use series T612. Admittedly, this method is not the most efficient, but it does provide one last option when all others have failed.

[1]Series: Glazier, Ira A., and P. William Filby, *eds., Germans to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports*, Scholarly Resources, Inc., 104 Greenhill Ave., Wilmington, DE 19805-1897; $75 per volume (10%discount for ordering the series, billed as volumes are delivered.)Available at the Library of Congress, E184.G3G38 1988, and at the German Historical Institute, 1607 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC20009.; Dewey Decimal Number 929/.3/08931 19; ISBN 0-8420-2279-1. The editors project an eventual total of 300 volumes {projected}.

[2]The Hamburg Passenger Lists, also called the Hamburg Emigration Lists, are available on microfilm at the Library of Congress Manuscript Division and from the Mormons. They are also available for a fairly high search fee in Hamburg.

[3]See United States National Archives and Records Service, *Immigrant and Passenger Arrivals: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications*, Washington, D.C.: National Archives Trust Fund Board, U.S. General Services Administration, 1983, 46 pp., including index. Library of Congress call number Z5305.U5U54 1983; Dewey Decimal System number016.929/373 19; ISBN 0-911333-05-3 (pbk.), pp. 55-126, reproducing the whole finding list of the T715 microfilm series.

[4]*Ibid.*, Microfilm series T621, pp. 40-46.

[5]*Ibid.*, pp. 46-55 (reproduces the whole list of microfilms).

[6]*Ibid.* and United States National Archives and Records Service, *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*, Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, 1982, 304 pp., including bibliographies and index. Library of Congress call number Z5313.U5U541982; Dewey Decimal System number 016.929/1/072073 19; 020; ISBN0-911333-01-0 (pbk.): $17.00; ISBN 0-911333-00-2: $21.00; p. 56 (merely mentions the list).

HAUSER FAMILY, second volume

By Micheline Gutmann, GenAmi , March1999

Translated by Renate Herzog

The first volume of the Hauser family study stands as a successful piece of research that has gained the interest of a great many readers. Providing geographical and historic context for the Jewish families of Durmenach, a small village in the Haut Rhine (an area that served as the primary cradle of the Hauser family from the 17th century onward), this genealogical exploration focused largely on the branch of Alexandre Hauser, the *parnas* of the Jews of Durmenach during the second half of the 18th century. His children and grandchildren married children of other *parnasim*, hailing from either the immediate area or the opposite bank of the Rhine, including members of the Kahn, Wahl, Rueff, Levy (of Guebwiller and Durmenach), Bloch, and Blum families. Described were the migratory routes taken by Alexandre's descendents throughout the 19th century. From the Revolution onwards, the growing economic constraints of village life encouraged branches of the family to relocate to towns (which were no longer forbidden), to somewhat inaccessible Switzerland, to the West, to Paris, and even to America.

Initially, the second volume concentrates on the town of Besançon, where various Hauser families resided for an extended period. It served as a transitional, and seemingly hospitable, home for Jews moving from eastern France to Paris. The study notes leaders of the Jewish community and the various synagogues, and thanks Roger Chipaux of the CEGFC of Besançon for his invaluable assistance.

Pursuing its thread, the new volume attempts to note all branches of the Hauser family, and to follow them as far as documentation permits. The authors were able to meet and gather additional information from the family's living descendants. The extensive source list

is the same as for Volume 1, and includes local and national archives, cemeteries, lists of marriage contracts, as well as interviews with family members throughout France and America. Family branches explored in the study include those of Alexandre Hauser's siblings, as well as the descendents of the Hausers of Luemschwiller; Habsheim in Alsace, and Rust in Baden. Although specifics are not yet determined, links between these families are expected. The Hauser branches are related to the Brunschwig of Blotzheim and surrounding region; Rueff, Dreyfus (of several places), Riss, various Levy, Nordmann, Bloch, Bernheim, Ducas, Ullmo, Ullmann, and Hirtz families, among others. In all, some 2500 individuals are mentioned, including some celebrities. Each branch is examined individually through copies of civil documents, and lists of descendents containing dates and places of birth, marriage, death and professional status.

Among the documents is a list of Hausers who were deported. Also included is an excerpt of an article by Moise Gunzburger concerning Alsatians in the armies of the first Republic and Napoleon. There is, in addition, a list for the Altkirch area. Several of the noted soldiers are also found in genealogies (which were translated by Armand Levi). Of course, these lists are not complete and do not go beyond 1900, due to regulations limiting extracts from archives. However, even in records prior to 1900, gaps exist regarding individual family members and connections between the Hauser branches. Fortunately, the lists are subject to continuous revision, and further volumes of the Hauser family study are planned.

Westphalian Jews in the Holocaust

By Peter Lande

It is difficult, and perhaps impossible, to portray on a personal level the efforts of Hitler's first victims, German Jews, to hide or escape prior to the massive deportations of 1941 and '42. Listings of victims, such as the Bundesarchiv's *Gedenkbuch* or city memorial books, are inadequate for this purpose. However, one small part of the massive collection of Bernhard Brilling, a rabbi who returned to Germany after World War II (see the Spring 1995 of issue *Avotaynu*), although never presented in book form, offers an unusual insight into what occurred in one part of Germany—Westphalia—in the years following 1933.

In the 1950s and 1960s, during Brilling's residence in the Westphalian capital of Münster, he resolved to gather information: he had the *chutzpah* to write to the officials of over 60 communities, asking for records regarding the fate (after 1933) of Jews residing in their towns. To my surprise, and probably to his, he received replies from the majority of his contacts.

I have computerized the information obtained by Brilling, and believe his collection offers rich insights. Some Jews fled to other countries, some to major German cities where they hoped they would not be noticed, while others returned to their birthplaces in Germany, perhaps in hope of finding refuge. Others, often the elderly, remained at home and awaited their fate.

This material may be found on the web at http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/westphalia.htm. Searches can be made by family name, original town of residence, or place to which Jews fled or were deported. A few individuals survived in Germany, and extant information is included in the database. Others survived by emigrating to Australia, Brazil, Canada, Great Britain, Palestine, the United States, or other countries. Tragically, most simply did not survive, and the dates and locations of their deaths are not known by the officials in their towns of origin. I omitted some detailed information, such as street addresses and occasional information on relatives outside of Germany, e.g. "X emigrated to Brazil to be with his brother Y at address...."

The entire collection is available at Leo Baeck Institute in New York City and at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. Individuals seeking further information may examine the collection through these resources or send questions to me.

Research of Jewish Communities in the Historical County of Oettingen

Karen S. Franklin

Rolf Hofmann of Stuttgart, Germany, has devoted several years to research of Jewish family history in the historical county of Oettingen, in Bavaria (about 70 miles northwest of Munich). The area was once home to a number of Jewish families. Recently, Mr. Hofmann presented the Leo Baeck Institute in New York with basic research materials, which are now available through the Institute. They include:

1. Colorful photographs of newly cleaned headstones at the Wallerstein Jewish Cemetery, including a picture of Michael Reese's grave monument (see *Stammbaum* 14, p. 15).

2. An autobiography of shoemaker David Epstein from Kleinerdlingen, who moved to Regensburg (Ratisbonne) circa 1860, and whose sons emigrated to Champaign, Illinois (text in English).

3. An extended biography of Theodor Harburger, who compiled photographic documentation of Bavarian Jewish artifacts from 1927 to 1932 (German text). (Book just published, bibliographic notes to follow)

4. Basic information concerning the Liebmann-Rheingold Brewery of Brooklyn, founded by a family with roots in Aufhausen, Wuerttemberg.

5. A few examples of poems by Fani Berliner, from Harburg. The poetry was gathered circa 1830. Widely admired, she later married Loew Michael Weinbach (a cantor and Judaic instructor in Harburg).

6. A newspaper article about the Saenger brothers, owners of more than 300 movie theaters in the Southern states and the Caribbean that were later sold to Paramount Pictures. The brothers' grandfather was a rabbi in Buttenwiesen, near Augsburg.

Remarks on Peter Lande's Article in Stammbaum 14:

Additional Sources of Information on Jewish Records in Southern Germany

By Rolf Hofmann

Archives: I recommend searching the State Archives in Ludwigsburg, Augsburg, and Nuremberg and the "Hauptstaatsarchiv" in Stuttgart and Munich for 19th-century Jewish vital records and emigration documents. Listed as "Israelitische Standesregister", the records were compiled by the Jewish communities and collected by government authorities during the Third Reich. For the same vital records, you may also contact contemporary Jewish communities, especially those of Karlsruhe, Stuttgart and Munich.

Another hidden treasure is the archive in Harburg castle (30 miles north of Augsburg). This privately owned, princely archive—belonging to the noble Oettingen-Wallerstein and Oettingen-Spielberg families—offers an amazing wealth of Jewish genealogical data from 1650-1700 onward. The data pertain to the former Jewish communities in Aufhausen, Oberdorf, Pflaumloch, Wallerstein, Kleinerdlingen, Ederheim, Moenchsdeggingen (frequently shortened to 'Deggingen'), Harburg, Oettingen, Hainsfarth (including a few records from Steinhart), as well as Schopfloch and Moenchsroth in Franconia.

Cemeteries: Inventories of the Jewish cemeteries in Wuerttemberg were recently compiled by the "Landesdenkmalamt" in Karlsruhe, and many have been published. Research work has been completed for Jewish cemeteries in towns throughout the northern part of Bavaria's Swabia District (the historical county of Oettingen), including Harburg, Moenchsdeggingen, Noerdlingen, Wallerstein, Hainsfarth, as well as Pflaumloch, Oberdorf, and Aufhausen, which are now part of Wuerttemberg, but once belonged to the county of Oettingen.

Those in need of additional assistance may contact me. My services are free but limited—I am a "one-man show." Send inquiries to: Rolf Hofmann, Libanon Strasse 79, 70186 Stuttgart, Germany.

The John H. Bergmann Collection

By Karen S. Franklin

Little did I realize the value of the boxes I carried when I brought the collection of John H. Bergmann from his home in Media, Pennsylvania, to the Leo Baeck Institute in the fall of 1995. With the transfer of this treasure-trove to our Archives, Mr. Bergmann, who was then living with his wife Elsie in the Martins Run retirement community, insured that present-day and future researchers would have access to his life's work

Three years later, the collection is being carefully analyzed and indexed by LBI volunteer Arthur Rath, one of many volunteers who prepare collections for cataloging. His enthusiasm and excitement, inspired by the richness of the material, returned to our attention the extraordinary nature of the collection. In the following interview, Mr. Rath discusses his discoveries.

Karen: Tell us about the collection.

Arthur: The John H. Bergmann collection is a complete history of the Jewish community of Laupheim. This community was, until 1806, under the Reichsfreiherr von Welden. Subsequently, it was incorporated into the kingdom of Wuerttemburg. The Jewish community always played a significant role in the history of the town. It peaked at approximately 850 residents in 1869. The population decreased at the turn of the century, in keeping with the period's changing demographics, as Jews moved to larger cities such as Ulm, Stuttgart and Munich.

Karen: What were the major families of Laupheim?

Arthur: There were many. Carl Laemmle, founder of Universal Studios, was born in the town. Not only did he return regularly, but he also provided affidavits for over 300 individuals during the 1930s, in addition to funding many charities for the townspeople. Friedrich Adler, a celebrated artist who specialized in the applied arts of silver, gold, wood, metals and textiles, was also born there. The Steiners were among the most important families. They acquired the local castle and deeded its surrounding path to the town, and were later prominent in banking, science and trade, among other areas.

Karen: What makes the collection important?

Arthur: Several things. First, there are few families in Southwest Germany who are not somehow related to the Laupheim Jewish families. Because the collection is so comprehensive, these families are most likely represented here. Anyone with family in this area should consult the index to the collection. The families are cross-referenced by community, which include Buttenwiesen, Buchau, and Ichenhausen.

Second, the social history of the Laupheim families mirrors the rise of *Landjudentum* (rural Jews) throughout the area. We can see the changing roles of Jewish families within the local economy. We see barriers going down, education acquired, and the price paid for

assimilation as Jews rise to the bourgeoisie.

Third, Bergmann has painstakingly prepared genealogies for every major Jewish family from the town. There is a dense network of interrelations, and no detail is overlooked.

Karen: What other materials are included in the collection?

Arthur: John Bergmann prepared a detailed index to the 960 tombstones in the cemetery, which date back to the 18th century. The collection includes copies of court documents, and copies of material related to the community that he found in the Central Archives for the Jewish People in Jerusalem, and from the State Archives in Stuttgart. The clippings and articles he saved indicate his wide-ranging interest in all related historical topics, and in the history of towns in the area. They also indicate his continuing interest in preserving the region's Jewish history. He remained in touch with former Laupheimers all over the world, including Argentina and Israel, and organized a fundraising network to support cemetery restoration and other projects.

There are several unique community registers also in the collection. There is an invaluable resource that we've nicknamed the "*Schnorrer* book". This is a register of individuals seeking financial support from the community. Most came from Eastern Europe, and their towns of origin are also indicated. There is an alphabetic index that notes how often the individual appealed for funding, and various notes on distribution and the integrity of the individuals. The book was kept from the early 20th century until 1923.

There is also a *Yahrzeit* book that, of course, identifies anniversaries of deaths. It notes the Hebrew and German names of the individuals, and the amount of contributions dedicated in their memories.

With the passion of a true collector, John Bergmann would preserve every bit of information, would copy any document that would shed light on the past of Laupheim's Jewish community. Yet, far from narrowly focusing on local history, he attempted to view events in their broader context, and within the framework of the Jewish experience. This indefatigable search, his immersion in his projects, was a true "labor of love". The legacy he left behind—a veritable gold mine for researchers in family and social history—will bear witness to his monumental achievement.

Laupheim Cemetery Book Review

Hans George Hirsch

Huettenmeister, Nathanja. Der Juedische Friedhof Laupheim. Stadt Laupheim und Verkehrs- und Verschoenerungsverein Laupheim e.V., 88471 Laupheim, 1998, 599 pp. plus 3 double pages of maps.

This personal review is dedicated to the memory of Charlotte Wallersteiner Elsas, founder and long-time head of the now defunct Leo Baeck Institute's Ladies' Auxiliary, whose maternal grandparents lie buried in the Laupheim cemetery.

At a time when air pollution wreaks havoc with old tombstone inscriptions, we acknowledge with profound appreciation the very costly efforts of people in many places who inventory these threatened inscriptions and, by publishing them, make them available worldwide.

The latest publication of tombstone inscriptions pertains to Laupheim in Baden-Wuerttemberg, a small town 74 miles south of Stuttgart. The Laupheim Jewish cemetery covers slightly more than one acre. The oldest tombstone is dated 1761. The index of those buried there, whose tombstones still exist, contains al-

most one thousand names. Each tombstone inscription is shown in the original Hebrew and/or German and for all Hebrew texts a German translation is furnished. In addition, the decedent's parents and, when applicable, spouse and children are shown as well as the sources used. And there are valuable explanatory comments. The arrangement is chronological.

Most valuable for the genealogist are the family tables (Stammtafeln) for 13 of the larger Laupheim Jewish families in the appendix. A personal experience may illustrate the value of the book for family research: A first cousin of my grandfather Louis Hirsch was married to a prominent Stuttgart lawyer; he died almost 100 years ago. I had never known where he was born. I encountered his name on one of the family tables and thus found the names and vital statistics of his 2 parents, 4 grandparents, 2 of his great-grandparents and a great-great-grandfather.

With a Jewish population of 843 people in 1869, Laupheim was the largest Jewish community in Wuerttemberg but soon lost this status as the result of emigration to the United States and heavy domestic migration to Stuttgart, Ulm and Munich.

The book records the names and family connections of Laupheim-born Jews who reached fame elsewhere, such as the American movie magnate Carl Laemmle (1867 - 1939), the great Stuttgart banker and co-founder of BASF, Kilian von Steiner (1833 - 1903) and the Hamburg artist Friedrich Adler who designed several of the tombstones in the Laupheim cemetery and the monument for the Laupheim Jewish soldiers killed in World War I; he was murdered in Auschwitz. Also mentioned are Gretel Bergmann, who in 1936 held the German record in women's high jumping but was barred from the Olympics by the Nazis in violation of Olympic rules, and John H. Bergmann (1908 - 1996) who made invaluable contributions to the book and who donated his extensive collection of papers dealing with the Laupheim Jewish community to the Leo Baeck Institute. Others mentioned but not clearly recognizable to an uninformed reader are the following: (1) Moritz Henle (1850 - 1925). He started his professional life as cantor in Laupheim, later served as the chief cantor of the famous Hamburg "Tempel" for many decades and composed important liturgical music; (2) the physician Dr. Hertha Einstein Nathorff (1895 -1993), prominent co-worker of the "Aufbau" in New York and author of an important published diary; and (3) Nathan Schmal (1850 - 1911) who for 36 years served as the lawyer member of what, in free translation, was the Governing Board of the Wuerttemberg State Jewish Community, literally translated, the Royal Wuerttemberg Jewish High Church Authority.

Of the many people who contributed to the preservation of the Laupheim cemetery and the publication of the book, Ernst Schaell must be mentioned. He has personally maintained the cemetery and renovated many of the tombstones. Moreover, he has published several papers on the history of the Laupheim Jewish community.

The book is richly illustrated and contains detailed maps of the location of all tombs. There are a chronicle of the Laupheim Jewish community and a history of the cemetery. Sections of a general nature explain Jewish customs associated with death and burial including "Chewrah Kaddischa", the history and symbolism of Jewish tombstones and the Jewish calendar. Also included is a treatise on the names of the Laupheim Jews.

No mention is made, however, of the insulting inscription at the entrance of the local castle during the first half of the 19th century:

"Ein Jud und ein Schwein
duerfen hier nicht herein."

(A Jew and a swine may not enter here.) Young Kilian Steiner - long before he became Kilian von Steiner - vowed that one day he would acquire the castle, remove the calumny and live there. And he did. How-

ever, his descendants and descendants of other Laupheim Jews relinquished their Jewish heritage but remain well aware of their ancestors who lie buried in the Laupheim Jewish cemetery.

Finally mention must be made of an unusual burial there: A friend here in Washington DC, a native of Berlin, had been incarcerated in the Bergen-Belsen Nazi Concentration Camp with his family; but they were rescued to Switzerland in January 1945 pursuant to a little publicized exchange under the auspices of the International Red Cross; the father, however, died as the train to freedom passed through the Laupheim area; and he was buried in the Laupheim cemetery.

The book is reportedly out of print; but the Leo Baeck Institute has a copy.

New Unified Catalogue

Leigh Gold

The Leo Baeck Institute has just completed an upgrade of its catalogues to a Windows-based environment, making it easier to use and more accessible to researchers. The new Master Catalogue of the Leo Baeck Institute contains the previously separate library, archives, and periodicals catalogues in one comprehensive database. A researcher looking for information on the Weil family, for instance, would find both archival collections and published volumes on the topic by entering one search query. Researchers only interested in archival material or published material, can still limit their search accordingly with the click of a mouse button. For easier reading, a "large print" option for the catalogue display has been added.

The new software brings the LBI one step closer to its goal of making the LBI catalogues accessible via the World Wide Web. At the same time, this comprehensive system will also benefit all those who choose to visit the institute to conduct research.

The Leo Baeck website may be found at www.lbi.org

Juedisches Leben in Ludwigsburg Geschichte, Quellen und Dokumentation.

Ludwigsburg: 1998, Stadtarchiv. 783pp.

Joachim Hahn.

This massive volume lives up to its name: It has history, an almost overwhelming list of sources which includes K[aren] S. Franklin in Yonkers, NY, the LBI Archives, and A[lan] T. Hirsh in Baltimore, and a documented account of Jewish life in what had been, at one time, the seat of the ruling house of Wuerttemberg.

Dr. Hahn, a Protestant minister, earlier had distinguished himself with his meticulous compilation of *Erinnerungen und Zeugnisse juedischer Geschichte in Baden-Wuerttemberg* , 1988 (Recollections and Evidence of Jewish Life in Baden-Wuerttemberg), followed by three separate, thorough inventories of three Stuttgart cemeteries (Hoppenlau 1988, Prag 1992, Steig in Stuttgart-Bad Cannstadt 1995), a book on Jewish life in nearby Esslingen (1994), and a 1987 collection on synagogues in B-W.

The present volume, Ludwigsburg, is probably the one with the greatest genealogical utility because in most cases he cites ancestors, destination for emigration, and later offspring. I found for example the Krautkopf family which moved from Ludwigsburg to Stuttgart and then to San Francisco (where I vaguely knew them.) where they anglicized their name to Kroff.

Unfortunately this also points to a shortcoming of this illustrated and thorough book. It has no index of

names. I did not find Krautkopf, nor Kroff. I did find the story, with all kinds of details when I looked for San Francisco (eight entries in the index) and stumbled onto Oakland, CA, p.500, which, however, merely refers to adjacent Alameda. There is an incomplete alternative: short family histories are listed alphabetically (under the [male] family name, of course.) And the Table of Contents is quite detailed, including this entry: "Persons who lived here temporarily... but not listed in [The preceding list.]

Worth mentioning is the bibliography with its focus on the Ludwigsburg area.It reaches beyond this small circle and has many generally useful entries.

New Sources of Information on German and Austrian Jews in the Holocaust

By Peter Landé

Up to now it has been extremely difficult to obtain information on the fate of German and Austrian Jews who had been deported to Riga and most are simply listed as *verschollen* or *für tot erklärt*. All that has been available are transport lists to Riga and a few transport lists from Riga to Stutthof. Now, a small light into this darkness has appeared.

After the war some survivors wandering around what had been the Riga ghetto, found parts of a notebook, and some sheets and scraps of paper. These turned out to be work detail and sick call lists for forced Jewish laborers. Although they were water damaged, weathered and wrinkled, the lists were generally legible. The pages were brought to Israel and held in the archives of the Association of Latvian and Estonian Jews in Israel, located in Kibbutz Shefayim. They were found by an amateur genealogist, Martha (Levinson) Lev-Zion, who recognized their historical significance, and forwarded them to me for computerization. These lists, all from 1942-43, fall into two categories; work details and sick call lists, i.e. lists of persons either totally or partially excused from work details. The 867 names which appear on these lists appear to consist of Jews, men, women and children, from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia, with ages ranging from 14 to 72.

The information on each person varies widely. In many cases only the name appears. In some cases date of birth or age in 1942-43 is given. In some cases the name of a German town, e.g. Hannover, appears, and I originally thought that this indicated the place of birth or place of deportation. However, on checking some of the names against other sources of information, I found that this was not always the case, and that these city designations may have referred to work details. In no case is the ultimate fate of the person indicated, and probably most died in Riga. However, persons interested in these names may want to compare them with the list of German Jews sent from Riga to Stutthof, which I previously compiled.

The Riga material is organized as follows: Column A, family name; Column B, given name; column C date of birth; Column D age (if date of birth is not given); column E, city/work detail (see above); columns F and G, line and page number. The list is available on the web at http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/translations.html. If any reader particularly wants a copy of a page referring to a relative, they may write to me at 3002 Ordway Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008 and I shall mail them a copy.

BOOK REVIEWS

Solomon Family History

A History of My Family

by David H. Solomon. Chevy Chase, MD, 1998.

Reviewed by Claus W. Hirsch

David H. Solomon, a 45-year-old lawyer residing in Chevy Chase, Maryland, has published a 103-page family history detailing the origins and travels of the four main branches of his family. Since starting his family research in a serious vein only five years ago, Solomon has accumulated over 17,000 names in a GEDCOM file. Not surprisingly, he reports that "it is still growing."

The self-published Solomon book is neatly divided into eight chapters. Chapter 1 is an introduction which details his sources and explains the organization of the book. By citing his sources, Solomon clearly has eased the burden of future family researchers who may wish to go back to the well to find other nuggets. Chapter 2 outlines the history of the Jews in Germany.

Chapters 3 through 6 trace the origins of the Solomon, Herman, Heldman, and Kaichen families. Most of them originated in various small towns in Bavaria with names like Altenkunstadt, Burgkunstadt, Ermreuth and Obernau. The towns of Soetern (Saarland) and Hofgeismar (Hesse) are also mentioned. Additional family names mentioned include Oppenheimer, Bauer, Adler, Frank and Naumburg under the Herman Family chapter. The Heldman family chronicles also mention the Leon, Marks, Hesse and Gompertz families, as well as the author's "nine times great-grandmother" Glueckel of Hameln [1646-1724]. In the Kaichen family chapter he mentions the surname Krous. A final, short chapter is devoted to David Solomon's wife's family—the Blitsteins, Franks, Weintrobs and Hanfts—who emigrated from Latvia and Poland to Brooklyn, New York.

The Solomon book is a very useful family history document which provides "color" about the subjects' lives with quotes from eulogies and obituaries, as well as copies of birth and death certificates, naturalization papers and various honorary citations.
Anyone with a knowledge of German will quickly recognize that many family names were changed after Solomon's ancestors crossed the Atlantic, and he documents those changes whenever possible.

A work this monumental is bound to have some flaws, and the Solomon book is no exception. The scanned pictures, for example, are uniformly grainy and/or out of focus. And a book with this many names also deserves an index, in my opinion. Some family trees, notably one including his own birth, are conspicuously absent. Still, Solomon deserves praise for embarking on this adventure and uncovering so many names. He was able to identify 26 of his 32 great-great-great grandparents and 238 direct ancestors, compared with only 37 in 1970. Even casual readers of the Solomon book may be surprised to find some common threads. I was: we both count Glueckel of Hameln in our family tree.

The Solomon family history is on deposit at the Leo Baeck Institute and the Jewish Division of the New York Public Library in New York; the Charles Young Library of UCLA, Los Angeles; the Stanford University Library, Stanford, California; the American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati; the Jewish Historical Society of Maryland, Baltimore; and the Asher Library of Spertus College of Judaica in Chicago. David H. Solomon can be contacted at SOL2516171@aol.com

Die ehemalige Jüdische Gemeinde Sien—Spuren und Erinnerungen

by Ruth and Ulrich Eckhoff, 1998, 159pp.

Peter Landé

This informative memorial book relates the tragic history of the Jews of Sien. It was written by Ruth and Ulrich Eckhoff (who are, incidentally, non-Jewish), with financial support from a local bank and the Catholic Church. Few readers, including this writer, are likely to have heard of Sien. Difficult to find on a map, it is located between the Glan and Nahe rivers in the Palatinate. At its peak, in the late-19th century, it had a total of only 562 inhabitants. It is not known when Jews first came to the area, although records indicate a Jewish presence dating to the early-14th century. Detailed census-like records are available from the late-18th century forward. The Jewish population of Sien reached a peak of 72 residents in the mid-19th century. This number gradually decreased, however, as greater economic opportunity drew Jews to larger towns and cities. Sien had ten Jewish residents in 1933, and only six remained at the time of deportation in 1942.

A comprehensive study of Jewish life in Sien, the book's timeframe spans from before the adoption of surnames to the end of the Holocaust. Genealogists will not be surprised by the creativity of Sien's Jews when choosing names. In some cases, even those who already possessed family names opted for change. Thus, Sabel Levi—also known as Sabel Anschel and Samuel Anschel—became Samuel Schlaechter (he was a cattle dealer). Joseph Loeb, also called Joseph Levi, became Joseph Rothschild, perhaps to indicate his status as a merchant and to establish a link to the famous Rothschild family. (No wonder so many Jewish genealogists have grey hair). Fortunately, the authors had access to comprehensive records pertaining to birth, marriage, death, and emigration. They indicate a gradual movement from Sien to other cities and countries, especially the United States and Switzerland, with Ohio a particularly desired destination.

The authors have determined each family's place of residence, the location of the synagogue (which was built in the mid-19th century and later abandoned as the community dwindled), and discovered a *mikvah* in the basement of a local home. The Jewish cemetery, although vandalized during the Nazi years, is now protected. The authors were able to identify the names of 51 persons buried there, the earliest in 1793.

Each of Sien's three major Jewish families—Rothschild, Herz and Schlaechter—is discussed, and the movements of individual family members traced both within and outside of Germany. Although Sien was isolated, it was not immune from the Nazi tide. In 1932, the majority of Sien's residents voted for Hitler. Growing persecution, starting in 1933 and continuing to the 1942 deportations, is described in detail.

Those who have no particular interest in Sien or its Jewish families will find the work compelling nonetheless, for it documents lovingly Jewish life in a small German town. While the book is not easy to find, copies are located in the libraries of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Leo Baeck Institute. Those without access to these libraries who desire information about Sien's Jewish families may forward questions to me by e-mail. I shall try to provide answers.

The Cologne Memorial Book and a New Development

Peter Landé

Before the Holocaust, the Jewish community of Cologne was among Germany's largest. Therefore, the publication in 1995 of *Die jüdischen Opfer des Nationalsozialismus aus Köln—Gedenkbuch, Böhlau Verlag Köln*, 555pp., was a particularly helpful resource for those searching the fate of their friends and relatives. The book includes an alphabetical list of more than 7,000 Jews believed to have perished in the Holocaust. When possible, it notes maiden names, date and place of birth, place to which deported, and date of death. Although much more information has since become available, the paucity of concentration camp material available at the time of the book's publication often resulted in limited notations such as *Deportationsziel nicht bekannt*, *verschollen*, or *für tot erklärt*. The last notation indicates that a German court has declared the individual a victim of the Holocaust, but holds no information regarding the time or nature of death. The book also contains a useful history of events in Cologne during the Nazi regime.

Not surprisingly, the flood of new information rendered the Cologne book obsolete, and addenda, corrections, etc., were impossible to print (a problem that has plagued publishers of memorial books throughout Germany). The ND-Dokumentationszentrum in Cologne, however, has developed an ideal "solution" to this problem. In the near future, it will post the memorial book on its web site, which will link to Jewishgen, and thereby ensure the broadest access and means to update the information as needed. *Stammbaum* will report specifics as they become available. We encourage other German cities to follow Cologne's example.

Leo Baeck Institute Family Research Application Form

The Leo Baeck Institute staff has developed a Family Research Application Form to help researchers provide adequate information for staff members to best direct inquiries. The form is designed specifically to prepare for on-site visits, but may be utilized for mail inquiries as well. Researchers should also consult the Institute's webpage (www.lbi.org) for policies on photocopying, interlibrary loan, charges, etc.

As a result of the use of this form, the archival collection has already been enriched by the addition of family trees and other documents.

Family Research Application Form

Leo Baeck Institute, Family Research Department

129 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021 • Tel: (212) 744-6400 • Fax: (212) 988-1305 • e-mail: lbi1@lbi.com

Name_____ Date_____

Address _____

_____

Phone_____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Dates of Planned Visit to the LBI

Research Topic/Family Branches

Town of Origin & State (e.g. "Marburg an der Lahn, Hesse" or "Harburg, Bavaria")

Specific Research Goals

Please identify goals and describe research already completed (e.g. "I need the address of the local archive to apply for vital records" ... I'm a beginner—Help! ... I can already trace my family to 1750 ... I'd like information about life in this village."

Additional Information

- The LBI staff strongly suggests that you submit a hard copy of your family tree (no gedcom files please) with your request. This helps us in selecting collections which may be of interest to you. Please indicate whether we may formally accession your tree into our collections.
- Photocopies of documents from LBI collections may be obtained or ordered when you visit. Copies may also be ordered by mail. Please consult our webpage at www.lbi.org for details and charges for photocopying services.